

Members of the Human Services Committee,

My name is Lydia Bennett and I am strongly opposed to HB 6618, *An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Persons Receiving Abortion Care and Related Services in Connecticut*.

I am opposed to this bill because it requires taxpayers to pay for services for people that don't even reside in our state. People that support the concept behind this bill could personally give towards the things they are concerned about, rather than using state money to do so.

However, the greater reason I was compelled to take time today to come here and speak is that abortion is wrong and should not be supported.

Support for abortion presupposes that when a woman becomes pregnant, it's only her body involved and she can do what she wants with it.

However, if the developing child inside a woman's body was merely an extension of her body, then that would mean that a pregnant woman has two hearts, two brains, twenty fingers and twenty toes.

The reality is that once a woman is pregnant, she doesn't just have her body to consider, but also the body of the child she is carrying. This fact is implicitly acknowledged when women are advised not to drink alcohol or consume drugs while pregnant for the safety of the developing child.

And that this is a human being growing in the womb is undeniable. Here are just a few of the stages of fetal development, describing the stage at which the majority of abortions are performedⁱ:

"During weeks 7 & 8: the heart has formed; webbed fingers and toes develop; the arms bend at the elbows; ears, eyes, eyelids, liver, and upper lip begin forming.ⁱⁱ Weeks 11 & 12: bones begin hardening; skin and fingernails begin to grow; early sweat glands appear.ⁱⁱⁱ"

That is not a description of just a clump of cells. The development is too specifically detailed.

But what I found most startling about that information, is that I read it on Planned Parenthood's website. Those descriptions weren't written by some pro-life advocacy group who was trying to make a point. But the point gets made: we're talking about a human being.

The size or stage of development of a child should never be a reason to dispose of that child.

For these reasons, I ask you to reject HB 6618. Thank you.

ⁱ https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/data_stats/abortion.htm

ⁱⁱ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/pregnancy/pregnancy-month-by-month/what-happens-second-month-pregnancy>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/pregnancy/pregnancy-month-by-month/what-happens-third-month-pregnancy>